



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

August 19, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

SUBJECT: ONE-TIME INCREASED CHAFEE (LINKS) FUNDS

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Immediate ☒ Time Sensitive ☐ Information Only

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, LINKS in North Carolina, assists current and former eligible foster care youth and young adults ages 14-21 in achieving self-sufficiency through support services, resources, and LINKS Special Funds.

DCDL CWS-60-2026 was sent to inform counties that North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) has been granted additional Chafee funds available to support **eligible** LINKS youth and young adults for SFY 2026-2027.

Each county was notified that they will receive a portion of the one-time special LINKS funding using the same allocation methodology as regular LINKS funds. Allocations are based on the number of young people in foster care as of April 30, 2026.

During previous office hours, counties were told these funds would be advanced. Based on additional federal guidance, an updated process has been implemented to ensure that the one-time special LINKS funds can be **expended or obligated by** the deadline of **September 30, 2026**. Counties will receive funds after a DSS-5217 has been submitted.

Counties must complete the following process to ensure that funding is properly utilized.

1. All counties, including PATHNC counties, will complete a DSS- 5217 LINKS Reimbursement Form to confirm that all funds have been **expended or obligated** to each eligible young person receiving funding in advance via Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)

Please utilize the "One-Time Special LINKS Funding" column. Link to form: [NCDSS 5217 LINKS Reimbursement Form](#)

2. Submit the DSS-5217 Reimbursement Form via email to linksreimbursement@dhhs.nc.gov.
3. Once the DSS-5217 has been received, counties will receive the funding via EFT. EFT notices are posted here: <https://dhhs32d.ncdhhs.gov/dhhs/control/eftdocs>

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 984-285-7103

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

In order to ensure all funding is distributed by September 30th, **counties must submit the DSS-5217 by 5:00pm on Friday, September 25th**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

For additional information about the One-Time Special LINKS Funding, county staff may join one of the following technical support calls:

Technical Support Call	Thursday, August 20, 2026 2:30PM - 3:30PM	https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/4442501323129122816
Technical Support Call	Wednesday, August 26, 2026 10:00AM - 11:00AM	https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/3397160434304341763

If you have any questions, please contact Tori Marshall, NC State LINKS Coordinator, at Tori.Marshall@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye, MSW
Section Chief, Permanency
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Services
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief, Regulatory and Licensing
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Well-Being
Beth Riley, Child Welfare Financial Officer

CWS-61-2026

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 984-285-7103

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER